

voluntary manner to address natural resource concerns;

Whereas NRCS employees serve in offices in every State and territory, while other employees assist other countries and governments;

Whereas while some NRCS employees work directly with landowners, other employees serve in support of NRCS field operations, but all work toward a common goal of improving the condition of all natural resources found on private lands, knowing when they succeed, all Americans benefit; and

Whereas the NRCS has been "helping people, help the land" for 75 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the outstanding conservation professionals of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(2) recognizes the vital role conservation plays in the well-being of the United States;

(3) expresses its continued commitment to the conservation of natural resources on private lands in both the national interest and as a national priority; and

(4) recognizes the services that the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides to the United States by helping farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to protect soil, water, and related natural resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. Con. Res. 62.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 62, congratulating the outstanding professional public servants, both past and present, of the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

I am proud to say that Members on both sides of the aisle support this resolution. I join Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON, Ranking Member FRANK LUCAS, and many of my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee in cosponsoring the House version of this resolution, which recognizes an important Federal agency that has helped our farmers and ranchers practice smart conservation on private land since its inception in 1935.

Established by Congress in response to the Dust Bowl disaster that devastated vast stretches of our land, the agency was originally known as the Soil Conservation Service. In 1994, the agency's name changed to the Natural

Resources Conservation Service to more accurately reflect its role in protecting all natural resources, not only soil, but also air, water, plants, and animals.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners at local levels, thus recognizing the diversity of the land in this country and the unique concerns in each region. In fact, you will find NRCS field offices in nearly every county in the Nation. NRCS helps local communities carry out thousands of conservation projects, which often translate into opportunities for job creation and increased investment in local communities.

Mr. Speaker, the United States depends as much today on productive soils and an abundant, high-quality water supply as we did 75 years ago. In fact, given the agricultural and environmental challenges we face, these programs are more important than ever. With this resolution we salute the NRCS professionals, both past and present, who have worked alongside America's local farmers and ranchers for 75 years to help preserve our essential natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and to join me in recognizing the great work of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 62, which recognizes the 75 years of service of the National Resources Conservation Service, the NRCS. Created by Congress in 1935, the Soil Conservation Service, now known as the NRCS, has worked hand-in-hand with local governments, organizations, farmers, ranchers, and other landowners to preserve and protect our Nation's natural resources on private lands.

Farmers were conserving long before it became a celebrated trend to "go green". They have always had a vested interest in preserving the land that provides for them. Partnering with the NRCS, our producers are provided the scientific and technical assistance to implement the most advanced conservation practices in the world.

Through the NRCS's assistance and implementation of conservation programs, producers have voluntarily worked to help reduce soil erosion, increase wetlands, and improve water and air quality, meeting mounting government regulations and preserving farmland and wildlife habitat. The environmental gains produced on these private lands provide benefits far beyond the farm.

The benefits of the NRCS's assistance are evident in my home State of Oklahoma. The conservation practices implemented by the producers have reduced the removal of topsoil and prevented a recurrence of the disastrous conditions of the 1930s Dust Bowl from ever happening again. NRCS also works

to protect the safety of our rural communities by rehabilitating old dams and working to implement flood prevention programs.

I would like to thank Chairman PETERSON for his leadership in introducing a similar resolution I have cosponsored. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the Ag Committee who have helped to craft the greenest farm bills in recent history. But most importantly, I want to thank and congratulate the men and women of the Natural Resources Conservation Service for their work in the field over the years, providing our producers with the assistance to protect our natural resources.

And let me just say once again: representing a part of the great State of Oklahoma that faced the greatest challenges of both the economic depression of the 1930s and the Dust Bowl, those good folks at what at that time was the Soil Conservation Service, working with what we would now consider to be very primitive equipment, working to educate and encourage producers to adopt practices that would ultimately make such a tremendous difference they have—what can you say? Whether it's the NRCS or the old Soil Conservation Service, the same great people for 75 years taking care of our natural resources. Thank you.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. I yield back the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker, and urge the passage of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 62.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.